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12 January 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Albania-Greece: In the previously reported Greek-Albanian talks on 28 and 29 December, Albania took the initiative to improve relations with Greece. A Greek Foreign Ministry official has confirmed to a US Embassy officer that the Albanians proposed to repatriate about 500--allegedly all that still remained--of the Greek nationals who had fled or were abducted to Albania during the Greek Civil War (1946-49). The Greek refugees and hostages in Albania have been one of several long-standing

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problems preventing an improvement in Greek-Albanian relations for the last 15 years.

On 9 January Albania followed with an article in the leading Albanian paper, Zeri i Popullit, reiterating its desire to establish diplomatic, trade, and cultural relations with "capitalist" states, especially neighbors. Greece was singled out with the condition that it give up its "baseless" claims against Albania. Greek officials probably could not publicly disavow their claims to Southern Albania, but negotiations on a general improvement of relations, including an exchange of ambassadors, would have an excellent chance of success if the Albanians were willing to shelve this question.

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Finland: Finland is reported to have requested an unspecified number and type of MIG fighters from the Soviet Union. This move, following the political crisis last fall, when Moscow proposed military consultations, suggests that the Finnish Government hopes to counter any future Soviet demands by demonstrating its willingness to build up its own forces. The USSR has previously offered MIG aircraft to Finland, and Helsinki may now feel it cannot resist the Soviet offer. The Finns also see the present situation as an opportunity to build up their forces to the modest levels permitted by the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty, without appearing to be anti-Russian.

Previously, the Finns have purchased on credit some T-54 tanks and other arms from the USSR. Although Moscow has not yet responded to the current Finnish request, a positive reply is likely. The cost of the MIGs could probably be met from the unused portion of the [redacted] rubles earmarked for military procurement out of the [redacted] credit extended by the USSR to Finland in December 1959.

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The Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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